THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXII. NO. 35. BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1903. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

MR. RAWSON'S AFFIDAVIT.

SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL ON MONDAY NIGHT.

The Facts in the Differences Between Mr. Rawson and Mr. Gilbert Now Reduced to Written Statement—The Council Orders an Investigation — Brookdale Property Valuations the Source of Contention.

The controversy in the Board of Assessors between Thomas Rawson, Jr., and Seymour P. Gilbert over the assessment of Brookdale property took definite shape Monday night, when Mr. Rawson submitted the following affidavit to the Town Council:

State of New Jersey, }
County of Essex, } ss.

"Thomas Rawson, Jr., of full age, being duly sworn on his oath according to law, deposes and says that he, together with Seymour P. Gilbert and Henry P. Dodd, constitute the Board of Assessors of the town of Bloomfield, and deponent further says, that at a meeting of the said Board of Assessors held on the twenty-sixth day of June, nineteen hundred and three, at which we were all present, the question of assessments upon land in Brookdale was brought up for the consideration of the Board, and the members of the Board unanimously agreed that the assessments of Brookdale property should be reduced from one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre to one hundred dollars per acre, in view of the fact that the State Board of Assessors had reduced the taxes of John Hyde in Brookdale, and that in consequence of that reduction it was deemed wise to reduce the other property for the year 1903, in proportion.

"Seymour P. Gilbert made the motion for the reduction himself, and it was seconded by me and Henry P. Dodd, the other member concurred in, and the vote was unanimously in favor of the reduction. Seymour P. Gilbert is clerk of the Board and has charge of the books, and I believed that the reduction had been made in pursuance of our action.

"On November 21, 1903, George Haines, who lives in Bloomfield, came to me with his wife's tax bills and asked if the reduction had been made. Her land is in Brookdale and was one of the farms upon which we made the reduction, and was particularly considered by us, each farm having been assessed separately. When I looked at her tax bills and found that no reduction had been made in her taxes in accordance with the action of the Board of Assessors. I told Mr. Haines it was a mistake, and on Monday, the twenty-third day of November, I showed the tax bills to Seymour P. Gilbert and asked him to straighten the matter out in accordance with the resolution passed by the Board. He then informed me that there had been no reduction on property in Brookdale.

"THOMAS RAWSON, JR.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me at Newark, this 19th day of December, 1903. THOMAS L. RAYMOND,

"Master in Chancery of New Jersey."

Councilman Harrison, in alluding to the affidavitt, said that it contained serious charges deserving the fullest investigation by the Council, and he offered a motion that the matter be referred to the Legal Committee for that purpose, and if the allegations are found to be true that the Council take such action as the case may require, and if the charges are not sustained the party against whom they are made be fully exonerated. Now that the main points in the controversy have been reduced to writing, the matter does not appear to be one of such magnitude as when it was put forth in verbal statements.

The George Haines property which is specifically mentioned in Mr. Rawson's affidavit, has figured more or less in tax discussion for two or three years. The property lies on both sides of West Passaic avenue in Brookdale. It has a frontage of 1,570 feet on that street. The property is assessed in the name of S. J. Haines.

In 1901 the town assessment map credited the farm with 30 1-10 acres of ground, and the Board of Assessors assessed the house and barns at $400, and the land at $2,250, making a total tax valuation of $2,650. Mr. Haines appeared before the Board of Assessors that year with his deed showing that his farm contained only 27 71-100 acres. The Board of Assessors recommended to the Board of Commissioners of Appeal that owing to the discrepancy between the town assessment map and the deed of the property, the owner be allowed a reduction of $200 in the amount of the assessed valuation, thus making it $2,450 instead of $2,650. In 1902 the Board of Assessors levied the assessment in accordance with the deed, placing $400 valuation on the house and barns, and $2,050 on the 27 71-100 acres of land.

Mr. Haines again came before the Board of Assessors that year and said there was a question about the farm containing the amount of land called for in the deed, and the Board of Assessors gave him the benefit of the doubt, and it was mutually agreed between Mr. Haines and the members of the Board of Assessors that the farm should be considered for taxing purposes as containing 25 acres, and the Board of Assessors recommended another reduction of $200 in the amount of the assessed valuation, bringing it down to $2,250.

The current fiscal year the Board again assessed the farm buildings at $400, and the 25 acres of land at $1,850, an average of only $74 per acre.

The Oratorio Concert.

The weekly rehearsals of Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," that are conducted by Choirmaster Arthur A. Eilor of the Watsessing M. E. Church indicate that the production of the oratorio on Friday evening, January 8, in that church is going to prove a great success from a musical standpoint. It is one of the most extensive musical undertakings that the church choir has ventured upon, and the affair is looked forward to with great anticipation. The demand for tickets from outside sources evidences a large attendance of people who take an appreciative interest in music. The choirmaster and Mr. John Kauffman, the orchestra leader; Mr. Charles Eilor, the church organist, who has been familiar with the Messiah music from boyhood; the choir of fifty-five voices and the orchestra musicians are all devoting their energies toward giving a praiseworthy production of Handel's greatest piece of music.

Narrow Escape from Drowning.

Spencer Hamilton, a young son of Dr. S. C. Hamilton of Broad street, had a narrow escape from drowning while skating on Oakes's pond on Saturday. His escape was little short of thrilling. The boy was skating at the upper end of the pond where the ice was thin, enjoying the sport known as "tickly benders," dashing across the thinnest stretches while the ice rolled in frozen waves behind him. Suddenly he broke through. The water was over his head, and it looked for a time as if he would drown. There was a large crowd on the lower end of the pond, and soon a human chain was formed until young Hamilton was rescued. He was hauled out and hurried home, partially unconscious.

Empire Theatre.

Three years ago Charles H. Yale and Sidney R. Ellis, who are well and favorably known as managers, announced the first starring tour of Al. H. Wilson, the Golden Voiced Singer and German dialect comedian. The success of his tour was most gratifying both artistically and financially, and Mr. Wilson is now established on a firm basis as a popular star of the first magnitude. This season "A Prince of Tatters" (a tale of old New York) is Mr. Wilson's play, and a production of unusual excellence is promised when he appears next week, December 28, at the Empire Theatre, Newark. Special matinee New Year's Day. Regular matinees Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Fire Items.

Chief Engineer Higgins and Archie Heath extinguished a chimney fire in the Castle building on Sunday. The fire was discovered by Thomas F. Cogan and Walter Hopler, and the Chief Engineer was notified. The latter and Mr. Heath procured extinguishers from the truck house and quenched the flames.

On Friday night of last week the Fire Department was called out for an alarm from box No. 24. Some persons set fire to a canalboat in the bed of the Morris canal near the gas house.

Evening School.

The Bloomfield Evening School will reopen Monday evening, January 4, in the High School building, corner of Broad street and Belleville avenue. Classes will be formed in reading, writing, English composition, arithmetic, business practice, typewriting, short hand, geometry, and mechanical drawing. New classes will be opened if the attendance is large enough.

Burglars in Glen Ridge.

Burglars forced their way into the house of Samuel M. Miller at No. 85 Hillside avenue, Glen Ridge, some time on Friday night of last week, although the robbery was not reported to the authorities until Saturday afternoon. A hole was bored in a panel of a door at the rear of the house, and by this means a latch was lifted. About $25 worth of silver and cut glass was stolen.

Diphtheria in Newark.

Diphtheria is still prevalent in Newark, forty-three new cases being reported last week, against thirty-five in the previous week. Six deaths resulted from the disease, also four from scarlet fever, thirteen from pneumonia, and thirteen from consumption. The death rate was again high, being 21.11 per thousand.

STILL DEFERRED.

Councilman Farrand's Fire Project Again Hung Up.—He Recommends the Purchase of R. N. Dodd's Building—Ten Thousand Dollars for the Property and Ten Thousand More for Alterations Involved in the Scheme—More Time Required for Investigation of Approximate Bids for Alterations.

Councilman Herbert C. Farrand, Chairman of the Fire Committee, made another attempt on Monday night to get a part of his project for new fire houses through the Council, but failed, and the matter was again hung up for two weeks at least. Mr. Farrand said that he had intended to submit a full and complete report on the fire-house project Monday night, but owing to not having received some necessary data he could only make a partial report.

Mr. Farrand recommended that the town purchase R. N. Dodd's building in Glenwood avenue, better known as Dodd's Hall, for $10,000—at which price the Fire Committee had an option on it—and he also recommended the expenditure of $10,000 for necessary alterations to the building in order to make it suitable for Town Council purposes and for other town offices. The approximate bids received by Mr. Farrand for making the changes needed in the building named $10,500 and $10,300 as the price for which the work could be done.

Mr. Farrand said that the purchase of the Dodd building was the best proposition that has come before the Fire Committee in its consideration and investigation of the fire-house problem. He recommended it as a matter of economy, in addition to its other advantages.

Councilman Walker opposed Mr. Farrand's recommendations. It is a matter, he said, over which the Fire Committee itself is not in unanimity. From his investigation of the matter his judgment was that the building was not what the people wanted, and he considered $10,000 was too much to pay for a building in that locality, and he advocated laying the matter over until the Council found out what the people wanted. The Fire Department, Mr. Walker said, was at present satisfactorily provided for, and the firemen were doing excellent service. He also expressed the opinion that the Fire Committee, upon further investigation, could find a better locality for a public building.

Mr. Farrand, in reply, said that if Mr. Walker could find a better proposition than the Dodd building offered he, as Chairman of the Fire Committee, would be glad to accept it.

Mr. Walker replied that he thought he could find a better one.

Councilman Moore, Mr. Farrand's colleague in the Fire Committee, advocated postponement of action on Mr. Farrand's proposition. Mr. Moore said he could not agree with his colleague in some features of the report. He had not seen the figures submitted until about ten minutes before the Council meeting opened, and he had not had time to inquire into them. In his opinion the necessary alterations were likely to cost more than $10,000. He also objected to stabling horses in a building that was to be used as a town hall. A further objection raised by Mr. Moore was that the building was a second-hand one, and experience showed that such buildings cost more than new ones. From Mr. Moore's point of view, it was the duty of Council to aid in building up the town, and in carrying out that purpose a new building should be erected, and the old building would remain for purposes of taxation. Mr. Farrand's proposition, he said, was a return to the original plan of the Council with respect to a public building, and one that had been abandoned, and a decision reached to build for fire purposes only and eliminate the provisions for town offices. He agreed with Mr. Walker as to his objections against the location of the building, and suggested that Mr. Walker be given a chance to look around and make a selection for the Fire Committee. Mr. Moore said that if Mr. Farrand's proposition offered a particular bargain he would be disposed to look at it differently, but as he understood it the price asked was all that the building was worth, and he moved that action on the report be laid over until the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Farrand spoke in reply to Mr. Moore's objections, and again enumerated the advantages of the building and the location. Mr. Farrand stated that if the building was purchased the town would get the advantage of a very reasonable proposition for furnishing horses for the two fire companies that it was proposed to locate in the building.

Mr. Moore's motion was carried without a dissenting vote.

Week of Prayer.

A week of prayer will be observed during the first week of January. A programme of services for the week has been arranged by the Bloomfield Evangelical Union.

Order your half-shell oysters for New Year's dinner at Hopler's.—*Adv.*

TOWN COUNCIL.

Ten Thousand Dollar Town Note Paid—Alleged Mistakes in Assessment Maps Ordered Corrected—Toney's Brook Embankment Repaired—Speed of Trolley Cars Regulated.

The Town Council held a busy session Monday night at which public matters large and small were brought up, discussed, and acted upon. Tax Collector Frank Foster brought to the attention of the Council some errors in the assessment maps that had caused confusion in sending out tax bills. One of these cases was in Orchard street, where an error in the map had caused taxes to be charged against the Benson estate for property, the estate did not own. Frank S. Benson appeared before the Council in this case, and requested that the Council have the matter rectified.

Another case of erroneous assessment called to the attention of the Council by the Collector was in Watsessing, where property was assessed in the name of a man named Oatman, and Mr. Oatman disclaimed ownership of it. The cases were referred to the Legal Committee for adjustment.

Another tax assessment matter was brought to the attention of the Council by Mr. Walker, who said it had been suggested to him by Mr. Gilbert of the Board of Assessors. The farms in Brookdale, Mr. Walker said, were assessed according to old deeds which all described property lines to the centre of streets, and as a consequence the owners were taxed for property used for street purposes. He cited the case of one man who was assessed for five acres of ground, of which an acre was in the street and used by the public. Mr. Walker said that the town assessment maps could be corrected by the engineer with the expense of a resurvey of the properties affected, and he made a motion that the Maps and Surveys Committee have the work done. The motion was carried.

Councilman Conlan of the Finance Committee recommended that the Town Treasurer be directed to retire a $10,000 town note issued in anticipation of taxes.

Councilman Moore of the Sidewalk Committee expressed regret at his inability to make a report on the Linden avenue improvement case. That street, he said, had been surveyed by Mr. Francisco, an engineer who enjoyed the confidence of all the parties interested, and as soon as a report from him was received, the Sidewalk Committee would report to the Council.

On motion of Mr. Moore the Essex Cross Railway Company's application for a franchise was laid over until the next regular meeting of the Council.

Councilman Conlan of the Sewer and Drainage Committee, reported that the Lackawanna Railroad Company had repaired the broken embankment of Toney's Brook. Mr. Conlan also reported a correspondence with the Public Service Corporation officials in regard to complaints about the high rate of speed at which trolley cars cross Orange street. The letters showed that official orders had been issued to motormen to reduce the speed of cars at that point.

On motion of Mr. Moore the janitor of the W. C. T. U. Hall in Washington street was created a special policeman. The object of this is to enable the janitor to effectually deal with some unruly boys who make a nuisance of themselves on the occasion of gatherings in the hall.

H. D. King appeared before the Council in regard to the Weaver avenue improvement. The Legal Committee having reported that the fact that the property which it is proposed to take in the opening of the street was subject to mortgages, was no bar to the town carrying out the improvement, Mr. King wanted to know why the work was not proceeded with. The matter was referred to the Road Committee to take steps towards making a contract for the opening of the street.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church.

There will be special Christmas services in the Glen Ridge Church Sunday morning and night. In the evening there will be a song service. The choir will be re-inforced by singers from the First Congregational Church of Montclair.

Rev. and Mrs. Elliott W. Brown of Glen Ridge will be at home New Year's Day from four till six. No cards have been sent out, but all their friends will be cordially welcome.

Christ Church Finances.

The annual financial report of Christ Episcopal Church parish published in the *Record*, shows that the income of the parish was larger during the year just closed than ever before. The receipts from all sources amounted to $12,565.70. Next Easter completes the tenth year in the new church. The Rector and Vestry are very desirous of beginning the second decade free from all floating indebtedness and with an assured income sufficient to meet all rent expenses.

Masonic Installation.

Installation of officers took place on Wednesday night at a special meeting of Bloomfield Lodge, No. 40, F. & A. M., the installing officer being Past Master W. H. Van Gelson, assisted by Past Master A. W. Potter as Marshal. The officers installed were as follows: George Peterson, Worshipful Master; R. D. Booth, Senior Warden; Frederic R. Plich, Junior Warden; F. J. Ogden, Treasurer; George W. Cadmus, Secretary; Ernest Barker, Senior Deacon; E. Leroy Cadmus, Junior Deacon; John Sanford, Senior Master of Ceremonies; Frank Foster, Junior Master of Ceremonies; A. H. Olmsted, Senior Steward; N. H. Dodd, Junior Steward; Henry Parkhill, Marshal; W. H. Roworth, Tyler.

A large number of visitors from other lodges, including Right Worshipful Geo. Parker, D. D., of the Seventh Masonic District, were in attendance. Rev. Dr. W. H. Morgan, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, addressed the meeting, stating that it gave him the greatest pleasure to attend a Masonic lodge, owing to its similarity to the church, each having the same object in view, "The uplifting of mankind and the furtherance of the Christian religion." He extolled the beautiful symbolism of Masonry, the underlying and fundamental principles of the order, saying that any organization founded on the Holy Bible could not be anything but successful, and recited several instances coming under his own observation where Masonry saved men, even from death, during the Civil War and since. He then turned to Past Master J. J. Thompson, and in a talk full of wit and feeling presented him with a magnificent Past Master's jewel, as a token of the love and esteem in which the members of his lodge held him. He congratulated him on the very successful year, both financially and in members, stating that he had proven himself a leader of men by the harmony now so apparent in the lodge. Mr. Thompson responded in a few well chosen words, which might have been extended if he had not been overcome by his feelings. The lodge room was beautifully decorated for the occasion and the attendance was the largest in the history of Bloomfield Lodge. A banquet was served at the close, at which good fellowship reigned and proved a fitting finale to a most successful year.

Employees Must Be Photographed.

Conductors and Motormen engaged by the Public Service Corporation hereafter will be required to have their photographs taken and two copies left with the corporation, to be kept on record. The purpose of this rule is to protect the corporation from men who, after having been discharged for serious cause on one line, may try to get employment on another line, sometimes under a different name. The men must pay the photographer. There are more than 1,500 conductors and motormen in the employ of the corporation. All conductors entering the employ of the Public Service Corporation after the new year opens must furnish a bond of $50 each. This rule and the one about photographs does not apply to present employees.

Firemen Want Compensation.

Members of the South Orange Village and Township Fire Departments held a meeting on Monday night in the village hall to take action in regard to the question of allowing volunteer firemen an exemption in taxes on property to the value of $500. Resolutions were passed advocating that steps be taken to legalize the exemption, and a committee was appointed to wait on the Village Board of Trustees to ask that body to compensate firemen in case the State law will not allow an exemption as heretofore. A committee was also appointed to confer with the Township Committee for the same purpose.

Watsessing M. E. Church.

Christmas services will be held tomorrow in the Watsessing Methodist Church, morning and evening. The pastor, Rev. P. G. Blight, will preach on the following subjects: Morning, "The King in the Manger;" evening, "Wish Think Ye of Christ." Special Christmas music by the choir, orchestra and male quartette. In the evening the Sunday-school will take part in the service. The Christmas entertainment of the Sunday-school will occur on Tuesday evening. An attractive programme will be rendered by the young people.

Smallpox in Montclair.

Dr. Martin J. Synnott of Montclair discovered on Tuesday that Michaele, the 16-months-old child of Pasquale Gurino of No. 38 Bay street, was suffering from smallpox. Health Inspector Horatio N. Parker was notified, and he had the child and its mother removed to the isolation hospital. The house was placed under quarantine, and as the attack is in a mild form, no serious results are anticipated.

Order your half-shell oysters for New Year's dinner at Hopler's.—*Adv.*

WILL VOTE AGAIN

ON A PROPOSITION FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE ORANGE WATER COMPANY'S PLANT.

The Town Council Passed a Resolution on Monday Night Calling for a Special Election and Fixing January 19 as the Date—Councilman Walker Alone in the Opposition—Four Weeks Allowed for Investigation and Study of the Question of the Advisability of Municipal Ownership.

The Town Council, on Monday night, by a vote of 6 to 1, adopted a resolution calling for a special election on the proposition to purchase the Orange Water Company's plant in this town. The Town Clerk read the following proposition from the water company:

EAST ORANGE, December 14, 1903.

MR. WM. L. JOHNSON, Town Clerk:

DEAR SIR: In reply to your communication of 8th inst. we accept the offer of the Town Council of $90,000 for our pipe-line system in Bloomfield, with the understanding that the town will take our place, so far as the use in Bloomfield is concerned, in the contract for water with the Montclair Water Company, which expires May 1, 1905. We are ready to deliver the plant at such time as the Council may fix.

Yours very truly,
ORANGE WATER COMPANY,
F. M. SHEPARD, President.

Following the reading of the letter from Mr. Shepard, Councilman Harrison, Chairman of the Water Committee, offered the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That in the judgment of the Town Council of the town of Bloomfield, in the county of Essex, it is deemed advisable to purchase from the Orange Water Company its water-pipe system or plant, lying and being in the town of Bloomfield, in the county of Essex, for supplying the inhabitants of said town with a supply of pure and wholesome water for public and domestic uses, for the price of ninety thousand dollars; therefore, be it further

"Resolved, That the question of the purchase of the water-pipe system or plant of the Orange Water Company, lying and being in the town of Bloomfield, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, from said company, for the price of ninety thousand dollars, for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of the said town of Bloomfield with a supply of pure and wholesome water for public and domestic uses, be submitted to the voters of the said town of Bloomfield at a special election, to be held on Tuesday, the 19th day of January, nineteen hundred and four, pursuant to the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled 'An act respecting towns and providing for the purchase of water works or a plant for the supplying of pure and wholesome water to the inhabitants of such town for public and domestic uses, and the extension of such water works or plant, and providing for the issue of bonds to pay for such purchase or extension,' approved March 22, 1899."

Councilman Walker attempted to amend Dr. Harrison's resolutions by injecting into them a proviso for the calling by the Council of a public meeting of citizens for a general discussion of the question of the possible sources of supply of water and the cost of maintenance of a plant. Mr. Walker was ruled out of order, and Dr. Harrison's resolutions were adopted by a vote of six to one, Mr. Walker voting in the negative.

In the debate which ensued over the adoption of the resolutions, Dr. Harrison said that four weeks intervened from now to the day of election, and he had no doubt but what much of that time would be devoted to acquiring information, and that much information would be in circulation.

Mr. Walker said he had been unable to find by inquiring where the town's present supply of water comes from.

Dr. Harrison said it was not a difficult matter to find out. The present supply, he said, came from the Passaic river straight, and without filtering.

After the adoption of the resolutions Mr. Walker offered a motion to the effect that a public meeting of citizens be called under the auspices of the Council, but the motion failed of a second.

Official notice of the calling of the special election is published this week by the Town Clerk, as directed by the Council, and the campaign may be considered officially opened.

There appears to be an over-confident feeling that the people will not vote to purchase the plant, even at the greatly reduced price, and considerable anxiety is manfested to know the possible effects of purchase, both as to the supply and the cost of maintenance. The Water Committee of the Council has been making diligent inquiry as to sources of supply, and it expects to have at hand

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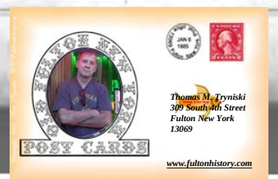
Violin and piano instruction at pupil's home or teacher's residence. For terms address William J. Maier, No. 47 Fairmount avenue, Newark, N. J.—*Adv.*